

REMARKS

The Examiner's action dated September 23, 2004, has been received, and its contents carefully noted. In response to the prior art rejection presented in that action, claim 1 has been amended to more clearly define the contribution of the invention over the prior art. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to specify that the film is dimensioned such that, at its lower surface, the through holes have a total passage area equal to 20 to 33% of the area covered by the film. These values are based on the disclosure at page 9, line 22 to page 10, line 2 of the Specification, and particularly the optimum range disclosed at page 9, line 25.

The disclosure in the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 20, together with the graphs shown in Figures 9 and 10 of the drawings of the present Application clearly show that the range of values now defined in claim 1 produces an optimum relation between the "wet back" and "strike-through" values exhibited by the film. Such a dimensional range is not disclosed in the primary reference, Thomas, which also does not disclose any connection between this dimensional relationship and the behavior of a perforated film.

Moreover, the improvements according to the invention result from the combination of the dimensional relationship now defined in claim 1 and the semi-ellipse cross-section of the film segments.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that claim 1 now distinguishes patentably over the applied reference and it is therefore requested that the rejection of that claim be reconsidered and withdrawn. It is further requested that claim 2 be allowed in view of its dependency from claim 1.

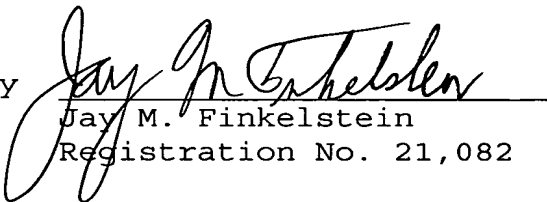
Furthermore, each of claims 3-6 is directed to a matrix for producing the film according to claim 1. In order for the matrix to perform this function, it must be given dimensions capable of producing the percentage passage area values defined in claim 1. Since the prior art does not disclose or suggest giving a film such passage values, it follows that the prior art does not disclose or suggest a matrix as defined in each of claims 3-6. Accordingly, it is requested that the restriction requirement be withdrawn, that claims 3-6 be permitted to remain in the Application, and that these claims also be allowed.

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If the above amendment should not now place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to call undersigned counsel to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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